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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#10 B/BM
10-16-02

In re application of

Docket No: Q59812

Pierre REBREYEND, et al.

Group Art Unit: 1731

Appln. No.: 09/605,882

Examiner: John M. HOFFMAN

Confirmation No.: 7302

Filed: June 29, 2000

For: PLASMA TORCH, METHOD OF FABRICATING AN OPTICAL FIBER PREFORM
AND PREFORM FABRICATION SYSTEM USING THE METHOD

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated June 19, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims:

8. A plasma torch for locally heating a target, said torch including means for injecting a substantially particle-free gas between the plasma torch and said target in the area of said target to be heated so as to reduce the power of said plasma in said area.

9. A method of fabricating an optical fiber preform including an operation of glazing the outside surface of said preform using a plasma torch for localized heating of the preform,

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